

Parks & Recreation - 1921.

GADSDEN ALA. JOURNAL

APRIL 14, 1921

SIX ACRES LEASED FOR BIG NEGRO PARK

Site on Cansler Car Line
and Black
Creek.

The Alabama Power company to-day signed papers leasing six acres of land on its Cansler avenue line and Black creek which will be developed for a negro park. The tract is said to be suitable for the purpose and the promoters intend to build a creditable amusement enterprise for the colored people of Gadsden and neighboring towns. Plans have not yet been completed, but it is understood that they call for the expenditure of a large amount of money.

For some time efforts have been made by various parties to establish a negro pleasure resort here. Only last week the council stopped the building of a dance hall on the north side of the city in what was declared to be an exclusive white neighborhood. At the site on Cansler avenue and the creek this objection is entirely removed. It is understood that the park will be made ready for use by summer.

Alabama.

Parks and Recreation - 1921

RECREATION CENTRE FOR NEGROES

South Park Parkmen
THE new quarter million dollar Republic Theatre of Washington, D. C., has become the center of recreational social life among the colored people of the National capital. The furnishings and equipment of this theatre are not excelled anywhere in the country.

—The Richmond Blade

District of Columbia

General.

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Playgrounds for Colored People

Survey 1/29/21
ERNEST T. ATWELL, director of the Bureau of Colored Work of Community Service, Inc., draws attention to the false and mischievous assumption that the "colored man has not time for play in youth or thereafter." He has no difficulty in showing that, compared with educational and religious efforts, the advancement of recreation among our colored citizens has remained much behind the times. Of the general need he says in a recent issue of the Park International:

Colored people are intensely human, live in similar environment, have similar aspirations, require the same infusion of influence and impulse to promote joy; and need preventions and curatives as advocated for other groups. In the four-square institutions of "real life" based upon work, love and worship, there may not be omitted for the colored man more than for the white the fourth cornerstone of normal existence: play.

new York apt 7/30/21
SEGREGATION TO THE Nth DEGREE.

All through the South one finds segregation of the races in varying degrees. There is segregation in the public schools, segregation in the railroad stations—even in large cities like Atlanta a colored person is not allowed to enter or leave the front door of the great union railroad station. There is segregation, of course, in all places of public accommodation.

But to my mind the most absurd segregation is segregation in public parks, and this sort of segregation seems to be becoming very common through the larger southern cities. A great many cities in the South have already established public parks for colored people.

One of the worst things about this park segregation is the fact that in a good many cities the Negroes are petitioning for colored parks. A park in the colored section of the city which would naturally be used most by colored people but which would be open to any citizen is all right, but a park in the colored section limited to use by colored people who are at the same time debarred from using the other public parks is all wrong.

No such park should be asked for by colored people or accepted by them.

COLORED AMUSEMENT

PARK OPENS MAY 16

Joyland park, owned by a number of colored citizens, and located on South Pryor street, will be formally opened on May 16, when a large number of negroes will attend the program to be presented on the opening date.

One of the principal events will be a competitive drill by the entire Georgia regiment of the uniform ranks of Knights of Pythias, which will take place at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Requests have been made to Governor Dorsey and Mayor Key to make addresses.

ATLANTA GA GEORGIAN

JUNE 10, 1921

Negro Children To Be Given a Playground

A playground for negro children will be opened June 16 near the First Congregational Church at Courtland and Houston streets. It will be run under the auspices of the Ralph Miner Institute.

Experts in physical education have been engaged to conduct games.

PLAYGROUNDS AND SWIMMING POOLS

In the park extension and possibly other sections well equipped playgrounds are provided for white children. Several well prepared baseball diamonds and tennis courts are opened to white boys and white men. In Daffin park these features are being added and further thousands of dollars have been spent for a swimming pool for white children. All of these are provided from the public funds. To this fund the colored tax payers are assessed their proportionate part. We do not envy our white citizens for these great privileges they enjoy from the public funds. We feel that these things are beneficial to them. No doubt it may be in the mind of the honorable mayor and his board of aldermen, to also provide some form of public recreation for the colored citizens who ask but little and receive likewise from the funds of the city, yet pay ing their part in providing recreation for their white friends.

The colored children have no open space where they can have their games but in the streets, made dangerous for them by passing vehicles and the frequent chasing of the police. Playgrounds and swimming pools for them will mean much for their well being and improvement.

Our mayor is a native Savannahian, has the best interest of the city at heart and it is felt that regardless of anything else he will treat all classes of citizens alike when it comes to the spending of the public funds.

The Tribune feels that it is only necessary to call the mayor's attention to the needs of the colored population and he will do his part towards us as a broad minded and true Savannahian.

NEGROES TO HAVE SWIMMING POOL

Mayor Stewart To Provide One At Opening of Next Season

Last week The Tribune called attention to the needs of a swimming pool and play grounds for our people. Simultaneously Mayor Stewart announced that same will be given. The mayor has authorized the appointment of a committee of colored citizens to select the location. After this has been decided upon, work will begin in time for the opening next season.

Mayor Stewart is keenly interested in this matter and expressed himself as being fully interested in the welfare of the colored citizens.

PETITION OF SWIMMING POOL IN CANN PARK

The following petition was sent to the Mayor and Aldermen on last Wednesday in the interest of a swimming pool for colored youth. It bore a request that the proposed pool be located in "Cann Park." The petition originated with and was circulated by Dr. W. H. Johnson, the Chiropodist.

State of Georgia,
County of Chatham,
City of Savannah,
Sept. 7, 1921.

To the Mayor and Aldermen,
City of Savannah,
Gentlemen:
We, the undersigned, colored residents of Cann Park and contiguous territory, hearing that you and your honorable body, together with others associated with you in sentiment, contemplate the building of a "swimming pool" for colored youth in some part of the city not yet settled upon, respectfully present to you this petition requesting that the location of the proposed swimming pool be Cann Park, this particular division of the city being almost entirely owned by colored citizens.

We would call attention to the fact that there is little or

no fear of trouble which arises between youth and which cannot be prevented where there is frequent intermingling incident to the pursuit of business or pleasure, in this section of the city. The probability will (be completed)

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Illinois

ST LOUIS MO GLOBE DEMOCRAT
AUGUST 16, 1921

TO INVEST \$65,000 IN PARK FOR NEGROES

East St. Louis Plans to Build Eighteen-Acre Recrea- tion Place.

More than \$65,000 will be spent by the East St. Louis Park Board in building a park and playground, between Fifteenth and Seventeenth streets and Piggott and Market avenues, for the negro population of East St. Louis, according to a statement made yesterday by Emmett P. Griffin, Superintendent of Park.

The new park, which will be known as Lincoln Park, covers about eighteen acres, and when completed will be the most modern of East St. Louis' system of parks. It will contain a swimming pool and bathhouse, a band stand and shelter house, and a baseball field surrounded by a quarter-mile cinder track. A full set of playground equipment for the smaller children will also be installed. The baseball ground will be so constructed that it may be used for a football field in the fall, and in the winter can be flooded and used as a skating rink.

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MORE PARKS FOR NEGRO CITIZENS

LOUISVILLE KY POST

JUNE 22, 1921

Park Commissioners Receive Request for Play-ground.

Pleas for extension of playground and park facilities for the negroes of Louisville marked the greater part of the regular session of the Board of Park Commissioners held at noon Tuesday in the Columbia Building. The board's session was begun by a request from Miss Alma Schmitt that a tennis court be built on a private's owned lot at Seventeenth and Magazine streets for the negroes, the latter to pay \$200 of the cost. The meeting concluded with a visit of leading colored citizens, who presented a petition adopted at a meeting of negro citizens at the Plymouth Settlement House.

Plea for Playgrounds.

The delegation was headed by Dr. James Barnes, of the colored Y. M. C. A., who said that greater playground facilities should be afforded negroes for five reasons:

The negroes constitute one-sixth of the population here; they are taxpayers; they need playgrounds more than any other class, because of their surroundings; that more playgrounds will foster better relations between the whites and blacks and will reduce crime and delinquency among the colored children.

They asked for the immediate establishment of a playground at Seventeenth and Magazine streets, and in California, which is that area between Breckinridge and Oak streets, Fifteenth and Nineteenth. The board voted to build the tennis court at the former location and to pay all expenses above the \$200 raised by the negroes. Other members of the delegation were Dr. J. A. Lattimore, Alvin Smith, E. A. Carter, Dr. J. M. Hammer, and A. L. Garvin, of the Standard Life Insurance Company.

Bond Issue Suggested.

President Matt H. Crawford told them that the board is property poor, and that a bond issue will be needed to buy parks for the colored race.

Miss Schmitt, who is chairman of the Inter-racial Committee of the Y. W. C. A., spoke of the need of doing something for the colored people.

"That's right," commented Commissioner McDowell, "they are over-running Cherokee Park now, and we may have a whole lot of trouble unless things are properly handled."

Request for Equipment

The board turned down a request from the James P. Boyce Settlement Home, 12th and Jefferson streets, to provide a swing, slides and other playground equipment for white children at the settlement. The board also decided to let the Library Board solve its own problem of turning the Library lawn into a park.

A request from George M. Wabnitz that some improvements be made in Clifton Park which is situated in a neighborhood "thickly populated by Republicans" and to oil a road nearby because "Mrs. Wabnitz has to dust the house twice a day" was refused on the ground that the park is a hole in the ground and more expensive to maintain than it is worth. The board has placed eight benches in the park.

Can't Build Tourist Cottage.

The members decided that they could not afford to build this year the \$4,600 cottage in the tourist camp at Cherokee Park, for which plans have been advanced by the Louisville Automobile Club. The board has donated ground for a camp in Cherokee Park and will build a couple of open air ovens for the tourists. Secretary Evans made the point that inasmuch as the entire benefits of this camp will accrue to the business interests, it would be wise for them to take up the task of financing the building of the cottages as part of their advertising fund appropriations.

BEAUTIFUL PARK BOUGHT BY COLORED INTERESTS GREAT FOR PICNICS AND OUTINGS.

At last the colored citizens of Louisville will have a beautiful and attractive park. This has been a weak spot in the hot summer time in local history—that in the hot summer time there was no real park.

Now Livola Garden, formerly Lyons Garden, at Preston and Kentucky Streets, has been bought by colored interests and will be from this time forward a Colored park. This is a real park, spacious and shady grounds with a large dancing pavilion with an excellent hardwood floor. The place was bought by Mrs. Daisy Jefferson and will be managed by Mr. Clark Jefferson. The name "Lyons Garden" will be retained and it can be secured by churches, lodges, courts and other organizations for public or private picnics and outings.

The garden will be open for inspection Sunday May 22, from 12 to 7 p. m. The public is invited to visit and look it over and see that Louisville has a real park at last.

For particulars see Mr. Clark Jefferson, 1006 West Jefferson Street.

Kentucky

Louisville to Have Negro Park?

RUMORS PERSIST THAT RACE WILL BE SEGREGATED

"Coon Hollow" and "Zululand" Suggested As Name for Leprosy Colony.

The Louisville Ky. News
12/10/21
Rumors persist that the administration intends to build a park "exclusively for Negroes."

The Solomons of the Republican party proposed this new park as a wise solution of the situation that arose over the howl made when Jim Crow signs were put up in the parks that now exist for the citizens of Louisville.

It is said that certain Colored people do not want "an exclusively Negro park," as they figure they are not social lepers and object to this leprosy colony. According to the county clerk, who counts the ballots in elections, there were only 271 Colored people who so think. It is further said the bosses of the Republican party feel if 27,000 Negroes can vote solidly in one party they can visit solidly one park.

The grounds purchased for the "Negro park" are south of Shawnee Park and it is said the odors from nearby sewerage and a glue factory are such as to wreck the stoutest and flattest of noses. There are five very beautiful parks in Louisville, great big spacious parks, so spacious they could accommodate the entire population if everybody too ka notion to go to the parks at one time. And why the taxpayer's money should be used in buying a special park for Negroes is a mystery. It is class legislation and it is said the Swedes are going to protest it on the ground there is no special park for Swedes.

But the 27,000 Negro votes that elected Mr. Quin, et al, must be recognized and rewarded, hence the Negro park. Also the 55,000 white voters who voted for Mr. Harris must be appeased—hence the Negro park.

At a meeting of the Park Board Tuesday, a committee was appointed to select a name for the Negro park. The committee, Messrs. Carroll, Schardein and McDowell. It is to be a Negro park and some people say the Negroes ought to be allowed to name, but the committee is white.

It was suggested that "Chickasaw" be the name. Who or what "Chickasaw" is or white significance is in the name was not stated. "Coon Hollow" or "Zululand" were also suggested as good names for the "exclusively Negro park."

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\$50,000 Amusement Co. Opens Park for New Orleans People

Prominent Colored Citizens Offer Recreation Relief to Race--Order of Benedict Increased by Six June Weddings

New York Age
(By V. P. THOMAS) 6/25/21

New Orleans, La.—Over six thousand five hundred colored people of this city attended the opening of the Crescent Stars Amusement Company's Park for colored people on Hope street, Sunday, June 5th, the first of the kind in New Orleans, owned, built, managed and operated by colored people for colored people. The park is 320 by 320 feet square, has baseball ground with grand stand and bleacher seating capacity of 5,000, has dancing pavilion covering 42 by 120 feet, equipped for dancing, for showing moving pictures and stage performances. The Crescent Stars Amusement Company is an incorporated stock company, capitalized for \$50,000, all fully subscribed and half paid up by the fifteen directors of the company. The park is the answer to the long felt need for a fitting place of recreation for the colored people who have had no such place in the city to go to for relaxation and amusement.

The investment and the general belief that it cannot fail to be a paying one for the investors, as well as the relief the operation of the park will afford the colored people in the matter of a place for recreation speak the determination of the race not to buy ships on which to move to Africa to begin life anew in a new country, but instead, like the Spartans of old, to make a way to liberty and manhood in this country where it is the best for colored Americans to strive and struggle for their place in the sun.

W. C. Marine is president of the company, F. V. Fauria, treasurer, C. C. Dejoie, secretary, and the directors are Walter L. Cohen, P. H. V. Dejoie, Albert Workman, A. J. Bigard, Edw. E. Woodruff, Edwin Faurin, Arnold Dufouchard, Bernard Delpit, A. P. Bedou, Walter Bemiss, F. F. Jones and Joseph Elliott.

Forty thousand dollars have been spent in buying the ground and fitting the place up for its purposes and the investors all feel certain that the investment not only will be profitable in a financial way, but will be a gratifying relief to the longings the colored people have felt for a park and pleasure ground where they can go for amusement as often as they feel like going. At the other parks of the city colored people can go but they are not allowed any decent service except when, as for instance, they rent the Fair Grounds for

themselves at a big price per day, or, as when there are to be no games between white baseball teams at the baseball park colored teams may rent it for theirs.

These inconveniences not to say humiliations, need no longer to be suffered or borne by colored people here where segregation and jim-crow laws govern. Needless to say how bitterly they hate the spirit of these laws. Their brethren of the North can not hate it more. Therefore conveniences for amusements for themselves when provided by themselves given them the feeling of triumph and independence. The reason they feel so hurt by segregation and jim-crow provisions in the laws is that there are many who lived here when there were no such humiliating conditions for the race to bear and who naturally often speak of the better days of the past in contrast with conditions of present days. They pray that their experience may never fall to the lot of their brethren in the North through the selfnesting ambition of members of the race for positions or places in institutions created by city or state for colored people, or through the neglect of leaders of the race to be always on guard watching the moves and steps of the cunning schemers to ease the race unwittingly into conditions as they now exist in the South, like the move for instance in New York City, proposing a center of public school lecture, for colored people and being fought by THE AGE, Alderman Roberts and Mr. Pickens, and others as a jim crow proposal.

The fabled Order of Benedict has been busy enrolling new couples for matrimonial voyage from this city, not less than six well known parties from leading families here embarking in the divinely instituted voyage on the fifteenth and sixteenth days of June. Five of the brides have been teachers in the public schools of the city, each a large circle of friends. In leaving the loving patriotic work of the school room, they do so to open new homes the main springs of higher life and Christian civilization. The young men who offered them their names, their plans of life and pledges to protect and defend them in the new homes, stand well in this community for sobriety, industry, thrift and intelligence, and assurance is expressed by many who know the newly-weds, that the new homes opened on the dates given above will be ones the race can point to with pride. The unostentatious ceremonies employed

Louisiana

In each case of marriage the couples for the contracting parties the possession on their part of a large measure of foresight, in not wasting a lot for mere pomp at the very beginning of their new relations in life as many thoughtless and careless young mates often needlessly do. The sign of wisdom which they have displayed at the start inspires confidence in their friends that their a full measure of matrimonial love and happiness in store for the new homes.

NEW ORLEANS LA PICAYUNE

APRIL 30, 1921

Milneburg Negro Dance

Halls to Be Suppressed

All negro dance halls at Milneburg have been ordered suppressed by the police department, Commissioner Ray announced Friday. Numerous complaints have come to the Department of Public Safety, Commissioner Ray said, and an investigation proved they were well founded.

Seven negro dance halls have been in operation at Milneburg and all of them are located on the Milne asylum property, he said. One is within 50 feet of the public school. Recent disturbances and near clashes determined Commissioner Ray to order that all the halls be closed.

Swimming Pool For Negroes

Opens With Song And Prayer

BALTIMORE MD. MORN. SUN
JUNE 12, 1921

Popularity Of Fine Natatorium Temporarily Dampened By General Agnus' Reference To Alligator In Civil War Anecdote.

The new swimming pool for colored people—the only one of its kind (as J. Cookman Boyd, president of the Park Board, said), “within the confines of this broad land of the United States of America”—opened in Druid Hill Park yesterday with prayer. But all the prayers in the prayer-book couldn't have got some of the colored folks into the water after what Gen. Felix Agnus said about an alligator.

General Agnus was entirely innocent of anything deliberate in his alligator talk. He made a happy speech, as everybody else was doing from the flag-draped stand at the shallow end of the cool, green pool, where the broad steps and grassy terrace held a festive but dignified gallery of colored men, women, boys and girls. Mr. Boyd had made a happy speech, Mayor Broening had made one, the Rev. C. Harold Steptean had delivered a prayer, Warner Gwinn, negro councilman from the Fourteenth ward, had made one (speech, not prayer), and John H. Murphy, managing editor of the Afro-American, had made one.

So it was quite natural that General Agnus should begin, in a happy vein, “I am an old abolitionist soldier,” and that he should tell about his colored regiment, which he called his “black ducks,” because they swam the Mississippi. Naturally, too, he told about the “cup race” his soldiers had held—a swim across the Mississippi and back—two miles. The race had narrowed down to two men, General Agnus said.

Alligator Joins Race.

“And then,” he went on, “we saw suddenly that while they were racing for the cup and glory, a great big alligator was racing for them!”

Three little negroes rolled right out under the fence and disappeared.

“And one of my men quickly whipped up his rifle and fired point-blank at the alligator. Unfortunately, he missed him,” continued the General, then going on to speak in high terms of the new swimming pool and of the vast benefits of swimming.

But for a full half hour after the speaking was over only a handful of the hardiest ventured into the pool, and not a single girl was in the handful.

Pool Is A Fine One.

The new pool is a big, modern, well-equipped one, measuring 150 feet by 50 feet 6 inches. It is divided into two parts, a shallow section two feet six inches at its shallowest, and four feet six inches at its deepest; and a deep pool, ranging in depth from two feet six inches to eight feet six inches. It is built of reinforced concrete, water-proofed throughout, with bathhouses

that will accommodate 2,000 bathers; it has 12 showers and a complete laundry for washing and sterilizing bathing suits. It will be kept open from 9 o'clock in the morning to 9 at night, being lighted by bright lamps when darkness falls.

Pastors of colored churches from all over the city, including Bishop John Hurst, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Rev. C. E. Stewart, presiding elder, were in the speakers' stand, where Mayor Broening, Mr. Boyd, City Engineer H. G. Perring and members of the Park Board sat. A chorus of nearly 100 colored school children sang songs, under direction of Lewellyn Wilson, who accompanied them on a melodeon. Cupero's City Park Band played when the swimming started, taking the minds of a lot of the swimmers off of the principal business of the day and turning them to cake-walking.



Maryland.

Swimming Pool For Negroes Opens In Druid Hill Park

Baltimore Maryland 6/12/21



PLAYGROUNDS FOR RESIDENTIAL SECTION

The Chicago Defender
American Playground Device Com-

pany Tells Where
Centres Should Be Located
The Afro-American

Referring to your favor of the 12th inst. we beg to advise that we could imagine in your city that swimming pools would not be as popular, as in the inland cities. Of course, in the middle west there is a great demand for swimming pools, and people flock to them in great numbers. Lawn tennis courts are popular with some classes. However we take it for granted that in the congested areas of the larger cities that this form of amusement would not be very popular.

What we would suggest would be to buy some carefully selected pieces of playground equipment, and put on some vacant lots, if possible right in the heart of your section, which you are attempting to serve. If you could select a vacant lot with some trees on it, and furnish some benches for the grown ups, and if you could afford it, have an experienced director who could give at least a part of the day to directing the play of both the old, and the young, and you would find that this would have a great effect.

If you had more than one playground you could have the director be on the grounds at a designated time each day, and then give her time to the other playgrounds, working on a schedule. The whole trouble with people is that they do not know how to play, and the larger cities have realized this, and are directing the play of the young, and the older people, and this movement is meeting with great success. If we can be of any further service to you, command us.

Yours very truly,
American Playground Device Co.
Rep. R. F. PRUITT

Parks and Recreation - 1921.

PRINCE ALBERT PARK PROPERTY PRESENTED CITY

WINSTON-SALEM N C SENTINEL
SEPTEMBER 24, 1921

Mr. Will Reynolds, the Donor,
Desires It Be Used as Park
for the Negroes

ACCEPTED BY ALDERMEN

Property Adjoins Woodland Avenue
School Grounds and Will Give
Colored People an Ideal Rec-
reation Field; Been Used for
Several Years as Ball Field

At the meeting of the board of aldermen last night Mr. W. N. Reynolds, president of the Reynolds Tobacco Company, presented, as a personal gift to the city, the splendid four and a half acre tract of land in the northern part of the city, known as Prince Albert Park, as a recreation field for the colored people of the city. The gift was modestly presented by Alderman Whitaker, in accordance with a request by Mr. Reynolds, the statement being made that "there are no strings attached to the gift," except that it be supervised and maintained by the city for this purpose.

The announcement precipitated the most favorable comment from the members of the board of aldermen, who highly commended the splendid spirit evidenced by Mr. Reynolds, who has been a strong advocate of public recreational facilities, his company having maintained the grounds now given to the city as a playground for colored employees of his company.

Prince Albert Park is located immediately adjoining the solid block of property acquired and being developed by the city as the Woodland avenue graded school for colored children. It is separated from the school property by Highland avenue.

The gift to the city of this tract and the plans for the additions to the Woodland avenue school plant will give to the colored people of Winston-Salem one of the finest school and recreational properties to be found anywhere. The school grounds and the Prince Albert addition gives a total of eight or nine acres in this property for the colored children and the race generally in the city. The property is valued at about \$75,000.

The board last night instructed the park and playground committee to arrange for the transfer of the property to the city, and a special committee, composed of Aldermen P. E. Horton and L. H. Cottingham, was appointed to draft suitable resolutions expressing appreciation of the gift to Mr. Reynolds.

North Carolina.

Parks and Recreation - 1921.

CINCINNATI O ENQUIRER
APRIL 20, 1921

PLAYGROUND FOR NEGROES.

At a meeting of the Committee on Negro Work of the Covington Community Service Organization yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Anne Hood was named Chairman of a committee of 13 to form plans for a public meeting next Tuesday night at the African M. E. Church on Ninth street, Covington, to perfect an organization of the negro population of Covington to engage in community service work. Frank H. Young, Secretary of the Covington organization announced that playgrounds for the exclusive use of negro children have been established at the corner of Eleventh and Richey streets on a lot 300 feet wide and 700 feet long.

Ohio

Parks and Recreation - 1921.

Pennsylvania

SOMETHING IN A NAME

The fitness of things is admirably realized by Mayor Moorhead in his dedication of the latest municipal playground, bounded by Tenth, Eleventh, Rodman and Lombard Streets, to the memory of Phillis Wheatley.

The name is assuredly worthy of preservation, for the poetess was in several respects an extraordinary character. She was a poet and a slave, virtually the first member of her race to invade the realm of literary culture.

Phillis Wheatley was born in Africa about 1753, was brought to the American colonies in 1761 and purchased by John Wheatley, of Boston. Her marked mental aptitudes and responsive personality inspired her master with the then radical idea of developing her talents with a sound education. She repaid his endeavors by achieving distinction as a versifier, eliciting eventually complimentary letters from Washington.

Far beyond the intrinsic merit of her "Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral," however, was the convincing proof which she furnished of the intellectual capacity of the colored race. That her fame as a writer has been far eclipsed by that of Paul Laurence Dunbar fails to detract from the wonder of her achievement. Nine years of her life were spent amid circumstances of barbarism, followed by a swift transition to conditions of a well developed civilization. That she was stimulated by the sudden change is appealing testimony of her strength of character.

It is a happy thought, in a city historically associated with the principles of humanitarianism and liberty, to keep alive the name of Phillis Wheatley. Councilman Hall entertains the notion that to call the open place the Charles Seger Playground would be more appropriate. The designation would perpetuate in municipal nomenclature the memory of the late Vare leader of the Seventh Ward. But is such reminder of gang political activities really a vital need?—Ledger.

Mechanicsville

Entitled To Half Of Appropriation

Rumors Of Underground Activities On Part Of VanGilder Property Advocates.-- Main Part Of Site May Not Be Sold.

The announcement of the price placed on the Van Gilder property which site is being urged upon the city commissioners by several local colored leaders as a choice for a park and playground for Negroes of the East Knoxville section has created a furore not only in Mechanicsville, where plans have been made for the establishment of a park, but among all fair-minded citizens of both sections, especially as facts begin to creep out in connection with the Van Gilder property matter.

The act which passed the legislature to provide parks and play grounds for colored people in the city of Knoxville, provided the sum of \$50,000 for the same. It is the desire of the citizens of both the East Knoxville section, and Mechanicsville, where the largest number of colored people reside; and the announced plans of the commissioners to establish a park in each section. The contention arises over the division of the money and on last Tuesday morning in keeping with the action of a representative gathering of Mechanicsville citizens at a mass meeting held at the Clinton Chapel church, on Sunday afternoon, a committee went before the commissioners and urged an equal division of the money between the two sections.

Prof. Chas. W. Cansler, principal of the Colored High School and chairman of the committee served as spokesman and presented the matter to the commission. He referred to the willingness of citizens to leave it to the best judgment of the commissioners as to where the park should be located, but insisted that Mechanicsville should have one-half of the money which is to be expended for parks and playgrounds.

"There are as many colored people in Mechanicsville as there are in East Knoxville," said Prof. Cansler, "and they are as much entitled to \$25,000 of the money to be invested in a park and playground as are our friends in East Knoxville."

The understanding of the committee was that no contentions as to the location of the park should be made before the commissioners, but Dr. C. R. Wood appeared thoroughly offensive in making "demands" as to where he wanted the park to be located. He was not a member of the committee appointed to go before the commission. "I have been working in Mechanicsville for fifteen years," said Dr. Wood, "and I want that park established where I say. My boy and my neighbors' boys are going to play in it. I want the site across from the Maynard school and I will not stop until you give it to me." The speech made by the doctor was accorded very little attention on the part of the commissioners, judging from their silent expressions.

Editor Porter, of The News, told of a desire of the residents of the Mechanicsville section to have an equal division of the money. "I was before you with another committee advocating the VanGilder site for the East Knoxville section," said Editor Porter, "but the report that the VanGilder property will cost between \$25,000 and \$40,000 causes me to reverse myself in that matter in an effort to have the commission select a site that can be purchased for less money so that Mechanicsville can have an equal share."

Dr. S. M. Clark and Mrs. Westfield also spoke on the matter. Rev. W. R. Russell presented a petition urging the commission to select the Trotter property for the East Knoxville park.

Many Rumors Concerning the Van Gilder Property.

Rumors are flying thick and fast relative to the inclination of many to suggest the selection of the Van Gilder property. Many who signed the petition asking the commissioners to select the Van Gilder property have changed their decision in the matter when it became known that a map of the site was furnished. It is stated from good authority that there is an effort to palm the deep gulleys in the north part of the property off for a park site when it was suggested before that the home site would be offered for park purposes. It is well known by all that the part of the property facing Clinch street and extending back as far as Payne is the only desirable part of the property and unless that is the part to be chosen, the other would be useless for park and playground purposes.

In talking with a representative of The News, a prominent real estate dealer remarked, "the colored people of the East Knoxville section will have to watch the VanGilder property proposition. The most desirable part of the property is not included in the offer and it would require much more than \$25,000 to equip the part to the north of the home site for park and playground purposes."

Citizen Offers Five Thousand.

It is understood that some "wealthy" colored citizen has made a proposition to give \$5,000 to further equip the park, provided the VanGilder property is chosen, and that the park be named in his honor. The News does not know who the author of this proposition is, but all who have heard of it have agreed as to it being absolutely absurd. It will be remembered that a Y. M. C. A. building was given by a "wealthy" citizen and before an organization could be perfected giving the city a local branch of the Y. M. C. A., the donor of the property influenced by individuals possessing petty jealousies and upon the suggestion of an inimical and prejudiced little white lawyer the property was reclaimed and to the present day Knoxville is without a Y. M. C. A., and all efforts to establish one has been discouraged due to said action. The suggestion of this "wealthy" citizen does not set well with any of the colored citizens who have heard of the same.

Trotter Property Desirable.

The Trotter property, another site, being given favorable consideration by the East Knoxville residents, is almost agreed to be the most desirable. It can be purchased for less money than is asked by the VanGilder property owners and can be occupied more readily. It has many advantages over the VanGilder property, especially that part which it is understood will be sold for the park purposes.

Park Sites To Be Purchased Soon

COMMISSIONERS CONSIDERING PROPERTY BEING OFFERED FOR PARKS AND PLAY GROUNDS—
DIVISION AS TO EAST KNOXVILLE.

A conference of the city commissioners was held on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of taking under consideration the selection of a park and playground site for the two sections of the city where the colored citizens reside. The greatest interest seems to center on the East Knoxville situation where two sites have been offered; the only contention of the people of the Mechanicsville section being that they have an equal share of the \$50,000 that will be available for park purchases. The colored citizens of Mechanicsville are unanimous in their contention that they are justly entitled to one-half of the amount as that section of the city is larger and is fast becoming populated by colored families. There is no question but that in a few years the colored population will far exceed in numbers that of the East Knoxville section.

Many Favor Trotter Property.

Two sites have been offered in East Knoxville. The VanGilder property, located at the corner of McKee and Clinch streets has been offered to the city at \$35,000, while

(From over)

the Judge Trotter property at East Vine and Preston streets has been offered for \$25,000. Following the rumors of graft and a desire to palm off the undesirable part of the VanGilder property, on the part of certain Negro leaders, many of the East Knoxville colored people who at first favored the VanGilder property, have changed and are now asking the commissioners to purchase the Trotter property.

Commissioners Divided.

It is a general opinion that the commissioners are divided on the sites. Whilenone has expressed a decided stand of the site to be chosen, it is stated that Mayor Neal and Commissioner Wapland favor the Trotter property. Commissioner Kuhlman was interviewed by a representative of The News immediately upon his return from his vacation trip last Tuesday. He stated, "I have been considering the VanGilder property, believing it to be the best place for the park. I understand that the property being offered consists of the entire site extending from the corner of McKee and Clinch south to an alley and then in a northerly direction to Condon and Walker streets. If a reduction in price cannot be secured on the entire plot of land, I favor purchasing the most desirable part and using it for the park. Certainly the front or old home site located on the corner of Clinch and McKee is the only section that would be considered."

What position Commissioners Adams and McCalla will take in the matter has not been announced as they could not be gotten in touch with for an expression.

Whites Oppose Selection.

Many protests have been registered by white residents living near the Trotter property to the selection of that place for a Negro park and playground. It is stated that this opposition is based on propaganda started by advocates of the VanGilder site. The Trotter property is almost entirely surrounded now by Negroes and the contention of those who oppose the site for a park on the race issue is not well founded. Too, the amount of money that would be required to place the Trotter property in shape for a park would be far less than that required to improve the VanGilder property.

It is very likely that the selection of the site will be made at a very early date as the money is now available.

EAST KNOXVILLE AND MECHANICSVILLE SITES MENTIONED FOR PARKS

At the regular meeting of the city commission on Tuesday morning Commissioner Nathan B. Kuhlman offered a motion that City Attorney Roy H. Beeler prepare an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale by the city of Knoxville of \$50,000 in bonds for the purchase and equipment of parks and playgrounds for the Negroes of Knoxville. The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

This action of the commissioners means that the long felt need for parks and playgrounds where Negro boys and girls may have advantage of the same, will be supplied. The bill authorizing the commission to levy a tax for the purpose of securing the funds was passed at a former session of the legislature.

Will Establish Two Parks.

The amount to be expended for the purchase of parks and playgrounds will mean that two sites will be purchased and while no selections have been definitely made it is understood that one of the parks will be chosen from the East Knoxville side where a majority of the colored people live and the other from the Mechanicsville section. Numerous committees and individuals have visited the commission with an idea of offering suggestions as to the locations, but the matter of selecting sites will be carefully considered with a view of offering the greatest advantage possible, stated a member of the commission to a representative of The News.

For the East Knoxville park, one of the most popular suggestions for a site has been that of the Judge Trotter home, a large and beautiful tract of land located at the junction of East Vine avenue and Preston streets. The place is near the colored section and is just far enough away from the thickly populated section to make it ideal as a park and playground. The excellent growth of grass and shade trees together with the spring water will make it more advantageous than the other place which has been suggested, known as the Van Gilder property, located on McKee street, between Payne and Condon streets. A large sum would have to be expended in grading and further beautifying the latter place.

Two Sites Mentioned for Mechanicsville.

Of the two sites suggested as being suitable for the Mechanicsville park, the one on College street, one block east of Knoxville College, and bounded by Russell and College streets, seems to be the most popular with the residents of that section. While a number of houses are located on the plot, it is distant from the thoroughfares which are traveled to a great extent by motorists and the street car line, which objections are raised due to the possibility of endangering the lives of the children who might frequent the playgrounds. The other site suggested is the block located at the corner of Wallace and University avenue.

It is expected that before the summer months, Knoxville's colored population will be provided with parks and playgrounds where they may spend the time without fear of being run over by cars or automobiles.

CHURCH SELLS PARK

MEMPHIS PAYS EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR CHURCH PROPERTY

Memphis, Tenn., May 30.—(Special to The Nashville Globe.)—Eighty-five Thousand Dollars was paid by the city of Memphis to Robert R. Church, Jr., for the Church Auditorium and Park, located on Beale street. This is the information that was handed out here today, and it was confirmed by a number of Mr. Church's close and personal friends. He could not be reached. He was out of the city and was not expected until the latter part of next week, but it is said that the city of Memphis purchased the desirable piece of property located in a prominent part of the city for the purpose of making improvement and maintaining it as a city park and playground for the colored population of Memphis.

It is recalled that the father of young Mr. Church, who passed away in Memphis some years ago, purchased the property back in the early days of the city, and that it was one of his desires that there be a place of recreation within the corporate limits of this city for the members of his race, so much so that he kept the property open and refused many

Parks And Playgrounds Ordinance Passes Second Reading

The \$50,000 bond issue to provide two parks and playgrounds for colored people in Knoxville passed the second reading at the Tuesday morning session of the city commission. Commissioner Kuhlman motioned the passage of the measure and it received the unanimous vote of the mayor and commissioners.

attractive offers for the sale. It has been the scene of many inspiring meetings, and was always used by conventions, picnics and outings. It joins the famous Beale Street Baptist Church and is just across the street from the Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company. While it only has 190 feet front, it goes back a distance of many hundred feet. It is understood that Mr. Church retained the brick buildings in the park fronting Beale street, but that the scores of residences back in the park are included in the sale. One of Mr. Church's close friends said that while Mr. Church disposed of the property, he was loathe to do so, but thought that since the city was desirous of maintaining and keeping open the grounds for the benefit of the citizens, he, too, would sacrifice the value for the benefit of his people.

Memphis Landmark Becomes a Recreation Center.

The Memphis Daily Commercial Appeal says:

"The park commission yesterday turned over a check for \$10,000 and 10 notes of \$7,500 each to R. R. Church, his mother and his sister, for the Church property on Beale Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets, hereafter to be used as a park and center for the negroes of the city. However, the city will not get possession until September 15, for the reason that Church has stored in the buildings a mass of fine furniture and house fittings which he has no other place to put them in."

It is a fortunate circumstance for the Afro-Americans of Memphis that Church's Park should be acquired by the city for a park and recreation center for them. It is admirably located and adapted to that good purpose. It is located in the center of a large race population and business development, both the Solvent and the Fraternal Banks being near it. And too, we were told that there are four teen public parks in Memphis, supported by all of the taxpayers, in which Afro-Americans are not ex

pected to show their races, other than as laborers or nurses for white children. Think of that! So runs the mad world away.

Tax Assessment Far Below Prices Commissioners Offer For Playground Sites

East-Tennessee News

6/30/21

The announcement at a meeting of the city commission last week that \$35,000 would be paid for the VanGilder property in East Knoxville, for a park and playground for colored people and \$17,000 would be paid for the property in West Knoxville, surrounded by white people and far from the center of the colored population, to be used for a park for the colored people of the Mechanicsville section has aroused a storm of protests and has instituted investigations as to the amount of taxes assessed against these sites which show that the two properties are assessed at \$19,600 and \$5,000 respectively.

White People Offer Protests.

The white families living around the site known as the McGhee property located on Middlebrook Pike, filed a petition signed by more than two hundred on last Tuesday morning asking that the commissioners not purchase that property for a Negro Park. This was following a meeting of Negroes at the Rogers Memorial Baptist Church in which it was declared that the property is surrounded for the most part by Negroes and their adoption of a petition asking that the commissioners purchase the same for a park.

In the last issue of The News, attention was directed to the fact that the property is outside of the area in which the Negro citizenship of Mechanicsville live and to establish a park there would result in friction between the races. The white people live around the park and very few colored people would feel free in sending their children the great distance from home where they would encounter difficulty.

Would Exhaust Appropriation.

To pay these fabulous sums for these sites in question not only raises objections due to the fact that many experts on valuation of property contend that the sites are not worth the money asked, but the entire sum of \$52,000 which is available for parks and playgrounds purchases for colored people will be exhausted and nothing will be left to equip the same and keep them in order. "Why we had just as soon not have the parks and playgrounds if they are not to be equipped as others are," were the sentiments of many Negro leaders. There wouldn't be enough left to pay a man to rake the lawns, after paying for the properties being considered by members of the commission.

In a lengthy editorial comment on the proposed action of the commission appearing in last Sunday morning's issue of the Journal and Tribune, the situation is clearly stated in the following words:

Either the city commission places too high a value upon the Van Gilder property at Clinch and McKee which the majority members propose to purchase for a negro park, or the city and county assessment is sadly at fault.

In 1920, assessments for state and county purposes under the Roberts law were supposed to be made at full value. The assessment on this property last year was \$19,600. There was a re-assessment this year and again the value of this property was placed at \$19,600. The city assessment runs approximately 70 per cent of actual value and the municipal tax assessment against this property is \$14,500, which would mean that the city and county assessors both judge the property to be worth about \$20,000.

The property was offered as a site for a park for negroes for \$35,000 or 75 per cent more than the tax assessors consider it worth according to the books. Four city commissioners have agreed to the \$35,000 price, the mayor alone holding out against it.

The contract for this purchase has not been signed. The Journal and Tribune is strongly of the opinion that it should not be signed at this price, without further investigation anyhow.

We are incited to believe that the city commissioners have been over persuaded in this matter. This fact that it is not an easy matter to secure a site for a negro park, or any other park, within a reasonable distance of the center of population. Also we are aware of the fact that there has been a tremendous demand from many influential negroes, supported by a numerous petition, for the purchase of this particular site. All the negroes are not in accord on this subject, by any means, there has been quite a lively tilt among members of the

race over the proper location for the East Knoxville negro park. Yet the measure upon the city commissioners to make this purchase has been heavy.

But enough is enough of anything. The price proposed and the assessments are too wide apart to justify the commission in bowing before a preponderant demand from those who will use the park. Before any deal of this character is made, the commissioners should call in a jury of real estate men to appraise the property as to its value.

There is a demand for another negro park in North Knoxville only \$52,000 is available. The Van Gilder property at Clinch and McKee for the most part is washed out and rough and will require much grading before it can be used as a park. To spend \$35,000 for the site would leave only \$17,000 of the fund. Probably \$15,000 or \$16,000 would be necessary for a site in North Knoxville. That would leave at the outside only \$2,000 to be used for putting the grounds in condition and for equipment, which would far insufficient.

The Trotter property, further east was offered as a park site for \$25,000. Judge Trotter recently withdrew it with a caustic letter to the city commission. This Trotter property is assessed by the city at \$5,500, supposedly 70 per cent of its value, which would make the total value in the eyes of the city assessor \$7,857.

The negroes should have a park, they should have had one long ago. The city did well with the bonds for this purpose, getting \$2,000 premium. The \$52,000 is little enough at best. Not a dollar more than absolutely necessary should be paid for any site.

PLAYGROUNDS FOR
COLORED CHILDREN

Journal & Guide 9/12/21
Mr. Robert W. Coates, a prominent white citizen of Norfolk, and a member of the Kiwanis Club, has brought to the attention of the city authorities the need of making some provision for playground facilities for colored children in the city park. The club, which is composed of leading business men, went on record as unanimously endorsing Mr. Coates' request.

In his statement Mr. Coates is quoted as having said that on a recent visit to the city park he had seen "little colored children gazing with longing eyes and envious hearts upon the scenes of gaiety participated in by white children, but that no provision for Negroes appeared in sight." Such an appeal touched Mr. Coates' humane heart and aroused his Christian sympathies with the results stated.

Now and then God moves a Christian white man or woman in the South to appeal for simple justice for the Negro. Often these appeals have a salutary effect upon the consciences of the white people as a whole. The needs of colored people in Norfolk for recreation facilities are distressing. Especially so are the needs of the little children, whose opportunities for fresh air recreation are so limited. It is hoped that the splendid move made by Mr. Coates and supported in such a spirit of fairness by the Kiwanis Club will result in early action by the city government.